

Message Text

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TAGS: SGEN

SUBJ: 24TH SESSION OF COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
(CSD)--WRAP UP REPORT

1. SUMMARY. CHAIRMAN K. A. NAQVI (INDIA) GUIDED REPS OF THE 24TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SWIFTLY THROUGH A LONG AND VARIED AGENDA OF ITEMS RELATED TO SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. MEETING WAS GENERALLY HARMONIOUS WITH MINIMUM POLITICIZING OF ISSUES. US DEL MAINTAINED LOW PROFILE BUT SECURED THOSE OBJECTIVES DESIRED BY USG:

A. MORE SPECIFIC OPERATIONAL ROLE FOR THE UN VOLUNTEERS PROGRAM;

B. CONTINUING RESEARCH AND ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO ACCELERATE THE DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF SOCIAL INDICATORS FOR MEASURING SOCIAL CHANGE;

C. A DECISION TO FORWARD THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE FOR DEVELOPMENT PLANNING (CDP) AND THE COMMITTEE ON REVIEW AND APPRAISAL FOR CONSIDERATION DURING THE MID-TERM REVIEW; AND

D. PASSAGE OF A RES ON INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT.

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IN ASSESSING SESSION US REP CONCLUDES THAT THE CSD MADE

PROGRESS IN ITS EFFORTS TO MAKE COUNTRIES MORE AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF INTEGRATING SOCIAL WITH ECONOMIC PLANNING FOR DEVELOPMENT. THE CSD IS THE ONLY BODY IN THE UN SYSTEM WHICH CONCERNS ITSELF WITH THE SOCIAL ASPECTS OF DEVELOPMENT PLANNING. UNLESS THERE IS ACTUAL SOCIAL CHANGE AND PROGRESS ALONG WITH ECONOMIC GROWTH, THE GAP WHICH WE CALL "THE QUALITY OF LIFE" WILL WIDEN WITHIN COUNTRIES AND BETWEEN COUNTRIES.

US REP CONCLUDES THAT CONTINUATION OF CSD IS IMPORTANT TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL CHANGE AND POPULAR PARTICIPATION IN THAT CHANGE. IF CSD WERE ABOLISHED, US REP FEELS THAT NO EXISTING BODY WOULD PICK UP ITS ORIENTATION. MOSAK, DIRECTOR OF CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT PLANNING, PROJECTS AND POLICIES (CDPPP), HAS MADE IT CLEAR PRIVATELY TO US REP THAT HE CONSIDERS ANY TIME SPENT ON THE SOCIAL ASPECTS OF DEVELOPMENT A WASTE OF TIME.

THE CONSENSUS OF CSD WHEN CONSIDERING THE REPORT ON THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION WAS THAT ITS INTRODUCTION, "A GLOBAL OVERVIEW," WOULD BE IMPORTANT AS A TOOL IN MEASURING SOCIAL PROGRESS IN THE REVIEW AND APPRAISAL PROCESS AND THAT IT SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVIEW AND APPRAISAL AND THE COMMITTEE FOR DEVELOPMENT PLANNING. THE US REP RECOMMENDS THAT IT ALSO BE FORWARDED TO THE PREP COMITE FOR THE 7TH SPECIAL SESSION. END SUMMARY.

2. WHILE THE COMMISSION CONSIDERED A WIDE RANGE OF ITEMS DURING THE THREE-WEEK SESSION, MAJOR CONCERN WAS FOCUSED ON ITEMS 8, 9, 11, 12 AND 13.

3. ITEM 8, THE 1974 WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION REPORT, AND ITEM 9, MID-TERM REVIEW AND APPRAISAL, WERE COMBINED BECAUSE OF THEIR INTER-RELATEDNESS. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION REPORT (WSS) PRODUCED BY THE CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT PLANNING, PROJECTIONS AND POLICIES (CDPPP) WILL PROVE TO BE AN IMPORTANT DOCUMENT FOR USE AT THE MID-TERM REVIEW AND APPRAISAL. IT HAS TWO PURPOSES IN THIS CONTEST: 1) TO ASSESS ACTUAL PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING GOALS OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND 2) TO UNCLASSIFIED

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ASSESS NEED FOR NEW AND REVISED GOALS IN DEVELOPMENT. ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, PROGRESS ACHIEVED HAS BEEN MIXED AND VARIES BETWEEN COUNTRIES, IMPLYING THAT THERE IS NEED FOR EXPLICIT COMMITMENT TO THE STRATEGY AND THE DECLARATION ON SOCIAL PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT, AND NEED TO IMPROVE THE SOCIAL POLICY-MAKING PROCESS WITH THE ATTENDANT SETTING OF OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS. THE REPORT ALSO INDICATES NEED FOR EMPHASIS ON SPECIFIC TARGETS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL,

PARTICULARLY IN AREAS OF FOOD, POPULATION AND ENVIRONMENT. BECAUSE THE FIRST REVIEW AND APPRAISAL FOCUSED LITTLE ATTENTION ON SOCIAL FACTORS, THE US SOUGHT AND WAS SUCCESSFUL IN HAVING "THE GLOBAL OVERVIEW" OF THE REPORT FORWARDED TO CDP AS BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR ITS REVIEW AND APPRAISAL. (DRAFT RES E/CN.5/L.418.) DEPT MIGHT ALSO WISH TO CONSIDER PLACING "THE GLOBAL OVERVIEW" OF WSS REPORT ON THE AGENDA FOR CONSIDERATION DURING THE 7TH SESSION OF THE SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

4. ITEM 11, THE UNIFIED APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT ANALYSIS AND PLANNING WAS CONSIDERED TO BE IN JEOPARDY BY SOME MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION BECAUSE OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION. THEY EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE INTEGRATED APPROACH WHICH REQUIRES PLANNING AND ACTIONS ACROSS THE WHOLE RANGE OF DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES MIGHT BE NEGLECTED IN FAVOR ONLY OF ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS. REPS FELT THAT OTHER PROBLEMS MUST ALSO BE CONSIDERED WHEN ATTEMPTING TO IMPLEMENT THE UNIFIED APPROACH. THE FIRST IS THE DIVERSITY AMONG NATIONS. WHAT IS PRACTICAL FOR ONE COUNTRY IS NOT NECESSARILY PRACTICAL FOR ANOTHER. THUS, THERE CAN BE NO SIMPLE, UNIVERSAL APPLICABLE SOLUTIONS. A SECOND DIFFICULTY IS RELATED TO THE PRACTITIONER. WHAT A PLANNER CONSIDERED PRACTICAL AND WOULD USE DEPENDED ON TRAINING AND SPECIFIC PROFESSIONAL ORIENTATION. WHILE CONCEDING THAT PROBLEMS EXIST, DELS FELT THAT THE THEORY OF THE UNIFIED APPROACH SHOULD BE TESTED AS WIDELY AS POSSIBLE AND, WHERE NECESSARY, ADJUSTMENTS MADE TO FIT THE INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY. AN ENCOURAGING SEGMENT OF THIS DEBATE WAS THE REPORT THAT BOTH THE ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS FOR ASIA AND AFRICA HAVE CONSIDERED THE UNIFIED APPROACH IN RECENT MEETINGS. IN BOTH SESSIONS THE BASIC PREMISES OF THE UNIFIED APPROACH WERE GENERALLY ACCEPTED. A REORIENTATION IN DEVELOPMENT POLICY, BOTH COMMISSIONS BELIEVED, WAS REQUIRED; UNCLASSIFIED

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AND CONCENTRATION ON ECONOMIC GROWTH PER SE SHOULD GIVE WAY TO AN APPROACH WHICH PLACED MORE EMPHASIS ON THE WELFARE OF EVERY SEGMENT OF THE POPULATION.

5. ITEM 12, POPULAR PARTICIPATION WAS STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY CSD REPS. MEMBERS ENCOURAGED GOVERNMENTS TO TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN TRAINING PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY WOMEN, YOUTH AND MARGINAL GROUPS, TO ASSUME A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN DEVELOPMENT. DELS ALSO CALLED ON NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, OCCUPATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL GROUPS TO PARTICIPATE IN SHAPING DEVELOPMENT POLICY.

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6. ITEM 43, SOCIAL INDICATORS WERE BORADLY DEFINED BY ONE REP AS "A SOCIAL STATISTICS REPRESENTING A MORE COMPLETE AND PRECISE ANSWERE TO SOCIALLY RELEVANT QUESTIONS THAN COULD BE OBTAINED BY MERE DESCRIPTION." SUCH QUESTIONS INCLUDED DEGREES OF HEALTH, LEVELS OF EDUCATION, HOUSING CONDITIONS, LEVELS OF WEALTH AND POVERTY, DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH, AND INDENTIFICATION OF AREAS OF GREATEST SOCIAL DE-PRIVATION. WHILE A SOCIAL INDICATOR COULD BE CONSIDERED A TECHNICALLY MEASURABLE COMPONENT OF THE SOCIAL STRUCTURE, WHEN RECORDED IT COULD BECOME NORMATIVE, SUGGESTING POLICY ACTION. THE SECT (WALTERS, CDPPP) NOTED ON THE OTHER HAND THAT WORK IN THIS AREA WAS AT AN EARLY STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT, PARTICULARLY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND NO GENERALLY ACCEPTED DEFINITION OF A SOCIAL INDICATOR HAD EVOLVED. SHE SAID THAT THE NEED FOR MORE DATA AND ANALYSIS TO ASSIST THE REVIEW AND APPRAISAL PROCESS AT THE NATIONAL AND INTER-NATIONAL LEVELS PROVIDED A PRIMARY REASON FOR WORK IN THE AREA. DELS AGREED THAT WORK ON SOCIAL INDICATORS, AS OPPOSED TO SOCIAL STATISTICS, SHOULD CONTINUE SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF BASIC SOCIAL DATA. DELS ALSO CAUTIONED THAT WAITING FOR PERFECT DATA COULD MEAN AN INDEFINITE DELAY IN THE WORK ON SOCIAL INDICATORS.

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WORK IN THIS AREA WILL BE CONTINUED BY THE SECR AND WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE 1976-1979 WORK PROGRAM OF THE COMMISSION.

7. ITEM 4, YOUTH POLICIES AND PROGRAMS. THE COMMISSION MEMBERS SUPPORTED THE RECOMMENDATION THAT THE UN VOLUNTEERS BE DESIGNATED AS THE PRINCIPAL OPERATIONAL UNITE WITHIN THE UN FOR THE EXECUTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF YOUTH PROGRAMS THAT INVOLVE FIELD ACTIVITIES AT THE NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS. THIS WAS A STEP AWAY FROM THE USUAL RES WHICH EXTOLLS THE VIRTUES OF YOUTH AND CALLS FOR MORE CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, AND REPORTS. HOWEVER, UNABLE TO STRAY TOO FAR FROM THE FAMILIAR PATH, CSD ADOPTED A SECOND RES (ROMANIAN SPONSOR) CALLING FOR COOPERATIVE RESEARCH AND INFORMATION CENTERS FOR YOUTH.

8. ITEM 15, PROGRAM OBJECTIVES FOR THE MEDIUM-TERM 1976-1979 AND PROGRESS REPORT FOR 1973-1974 HIGHLIGHTED TO SOME DEGREE THE FUNCTION AND THE DIVISION BETWEEN THE CENTER FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS HEADED BY HELVI SIPILA AND THE CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT PLANNING, PROJECTIONS AND POLICIES HEADED BY JACOB MOSAK. COMMISSION MEMBERS WERE CONCERNED THAT THE FORMER WAS TOO CONCERNED WITH SOCIAL WELFARE AS DISTINCT FROM THE MORE HOLISTIC SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. THE CSD ALSO REGISTERED CONCERN THAT THE CDPPP WHICH FOCUSSES MAINLY ON ECONOMIC PROJECTIONS MAKES LITTLE EFFORT TO COORDINATE ITS ACTIVITIES WITH THOSE OF THE CENTER FOR HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS AND VICE VERSA. COMMISSION MEMBERS REQUESTED THAT IN FUTURE THE CENTER FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS PLACE MORE EMPHASIS ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT RATHER THAN ON ONLY SOCIAL WELFARE (WELFARE IN THE REMEDIAL SENSE) ACTIVITIES. DELS FELT THAT THE THEORIES THAT HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED OVER THE YEARS THROUGH STUDIES AND REPORTS SHOULD BE TESTED TO SEE IF THEY ARE VALID. ASYG SIPILA MADE AN INDIRECT PLEA FOR MORE INTEGRATION OF THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS BY NOTING THAT SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT WAS CONSIDERED BY THE THIRD COMMITTEE OF THE GA, WHICH DEALS WITH SOCIAL AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS RATHER THAN BY THE SECOND COMITE WHICH DEALS WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THE UNMISTAKEABLE IMPLICATION OF HER STATMENT WAS THAT SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ALONG WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BY THE SECOND COMITE RATHER THAN THE THIRD.

9. OTHER ITEMS CONSIDERED BY THE COMMISSION INCLUDED REHABILITATION OF DISABLED PERSONS; CRIME PREVENTION

AND CONTROL; THE PROTECTION AND WELFARE OF CHILDREN, AND MIGRANT WORKERS. RES ADOPTED ON EACH OF THE ITEMS CALLED FOR MORE CONCERN BY GOVERNMENTS FOR THE WELFARE OF INDIVIDUALS IN THESE SPECIAL AREAS. CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS WILL BE HELD AND RESEARCH CONDUCTED WHICH WILL HOPEFULLY CONTRIBUTE TO THE SOCIAL WELL-BEING OF THESE GROUPS.

10. GABRIEL VAN LATHEM, THE NEWLY APPOINTED UNDER SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, MIGHT BE ABLE TO BRING SOME UNITY TO THE TWO CENTERS, SIPILA'S AND MOSAK'S. ROBERT MULLER, DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY TO USYG FOR UN OFFICE FOR INTER-AGENCY AFFAIRS AND COORDINATION, TOLD US REP (PICKER), THE NEW USYG WAS VERY INTERESTED IN THE SOCIAL ASPECTS OF DEVELOPMENT. HOWEVER, IN A BRIEF STATEMENT TO THE COMMISSION, WHICH WAS MADE AT SUGGESTION OF US AND USSR DELS, HE HAVE NO HINT OF WHAT HIS PLANS ARE REGARDING THE FUTURE OF THE COMMISSION OR OF WHAT HIS FEELINGS ARE REGARDING SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. HE GREETED MEMBERS, COMPLIMENTED THEM ON THEIR DELIBERATIONS AND SUGGESTED THEY CONTINUE THE GOOD WORK. SINCE THE INTEGRATION OF THE CDPPP AND THE CENTER OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS IS A RECURRENT THEME AT CSD SESSIONS, IT CAN BE EXPECTED THAT THE NEW USYG WILL EVENTUALLY HAVE TO DEAL WITH THIS SITUATION.
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